Average rate of failure of local/inter- exchange calls for urban and rural areas is as under:

	Failure of		
	Local calls	Inter-exchange calls	Remarks
Urban	4.2	11.1	—
Rural	4.1	—	Being single exchange area, no inter-exchange calls

(b) However to reduce the percentage failure of calls, following steps are taken:—

(i) Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherited with electromagnetic switching equipment used thereto.

(ii) Replacement of life-expired equipment.

(iii) Intensive testing of exchange equipment.

(iv) Laying of new junction cables inducts to protect them from external damages.

(v) Pressurisation of junction cables to minimise cable breakdown faults.

(vi) Provision of high-grade junction ccts. on Pulse Code Modulation—Coaxial and microwage optical fibre media to provide better quality and more dependable service, and

(vii) Use of improved telephone instruments.

Measures to meet the demands in Telecommunication Sector

525. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government are contemplating to meet the demands, in the Telecommunications Sector;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up a rural telegraphic network through a satellite for the entire country; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Department of Telecommunication has prepared a perspective plan to provide telephones practically on demand by the year 2000 A.D.

It has been estimated that this will call for increasing the number of direct exchange lines (DELs) to about 190 lakhs by the turn of the century from the present 38 lakhs.

The Department will undertake the plan provided the necessary resources could be made available.

(b) and (c) There is at present no proposal to provide satellite based telegraph network for the entire country. A R&D Pilot Project for setting up 50 rural telegraph terminals in the North Eastern Region through satellite has been approved as experimental measure. This is likely to be operational during 1989-90.

Augmenting power generation

526. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the national requirement of electricity per day;

(b) what is its generation and how the shortfall, if any, is being met at present; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to augment the electricity/power